



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – March 7, 2011
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Acting Commissioner Susan Fréchette
Department of Environmental Protection

**Committee House Bill No. 5526 - AN ACT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL OR
RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS ON PROPERTY THAT CONTAINS CERTAIN
WOODLANDS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Committee House Bill No. 5126 - AN ACT CONCERNING COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS ON PROPERTY THAT CONTAINS CERTAIN WOODLANDS. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) offers the following testimony.

The Department recognizes that commercial or residential development of large tracts of forest is not in the public interest due to the cumulative loss of wildlife habitat, forest products and environmental services (clean water, flood storage, etc.). Additionally, the Department actively seeks to conserve forest land as resources permit and according to our *Green Plan*. We also encourage and support the efforts of municipalities, NGOs and other partners in conservation.

While the Department applauds the intent of this bill, we are concerned by the lack of specifics and standards that would help guide development of a new permitting program. Overlap with existing state and municipal permitting programs needs to be considered. We are also concerned that the bill does not address the resources necessary to staff the development and implementation of this program. The Department would welcome the opportunity to work with the proponents of the bill to discuss this further.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Department's views on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at (860) 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov.